



## **Teach for America**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Excelencia School  
21<sup>st</sup> Street & McDowell, Phoenix, Arizona  
Thursday, February 11, 2010

- **What a wonderful day this is for Arizona!**
- **I have fought for education funding all my life – and throughout my budget battles with education critics -- so I am especially pleased to be able to award two million dollars in stimulus dollars to Teach for America in Arizona.**

- **Thanks to Pearl Chang Esau, Executive Director of Teach For America in Phoenix; and Damon Twist, Principal of Excelencia School – an alumni of Teach for America -- for your dedication to Arizona's children.**
- **Pearl and Damon are carrying out the incredible vision of Wendy Kopp who 20 years ago sat in her Princeton dorm room and had the courage to dream big.**
- **Her dream was to recruit the best and the brightest from our colleges and universities to transform public schools in areas where others had given up hope.**

- **Twenty years later, there are over 17,000 Teach for America alumni nationwide and over three million students reached. Now, I want to expand their reach in Arizona .**
- **Think about it.**
- **Committed -- energized -- young teachers going into rural and urban classrooms where they are needed.**
- **Is there a better investment?**
- **One of the many things that makes ME such a strong supporter of Teach For America is that its alumni continue to advocate for children.**

- **They advocate for them in low-income communities as public school teachers, principals, and leaders across all professional fields.**
- **These funds in Arizona will mean an enormous return on our investment.**
- **We will:**
  - **Restore the organization's state funding to the level it was in 2006 and bring a critical mass of 200 new corps members in Arizona next year.**
  - **Increase our impact on students growing up in low-income communities from 20,000 to over 25,000.**

- **Increase alumni leadership by growing the number of alumni living in Arizona from 450 to 900 in three years.**
- **And, as the professionals at Excelencia School demonstrate, alumni will serve as outstanding career teachers, principals, charter school leaders, school board members, and leaders from every sector who will continue to improve public education in Arizona.**
- **Finally, these funds will help expand Teach for America's early childhood initiative and further develop the pipeline of highly-qualified math/science and special education teachers in Arizona.**

- **And, before I leave you today, I'd like to thank all of you who worked so hard to help us secure these dollars.**
- **Thank you for your extraordinary efforts on behalf of the future of the state.**
- **And, thanks to you all for coming today to witness a new dedication to excellence in Arizona education.**
- **Thank you.**